

REGINA. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

1891-1951 DIAMOND JUBILEE;
(HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

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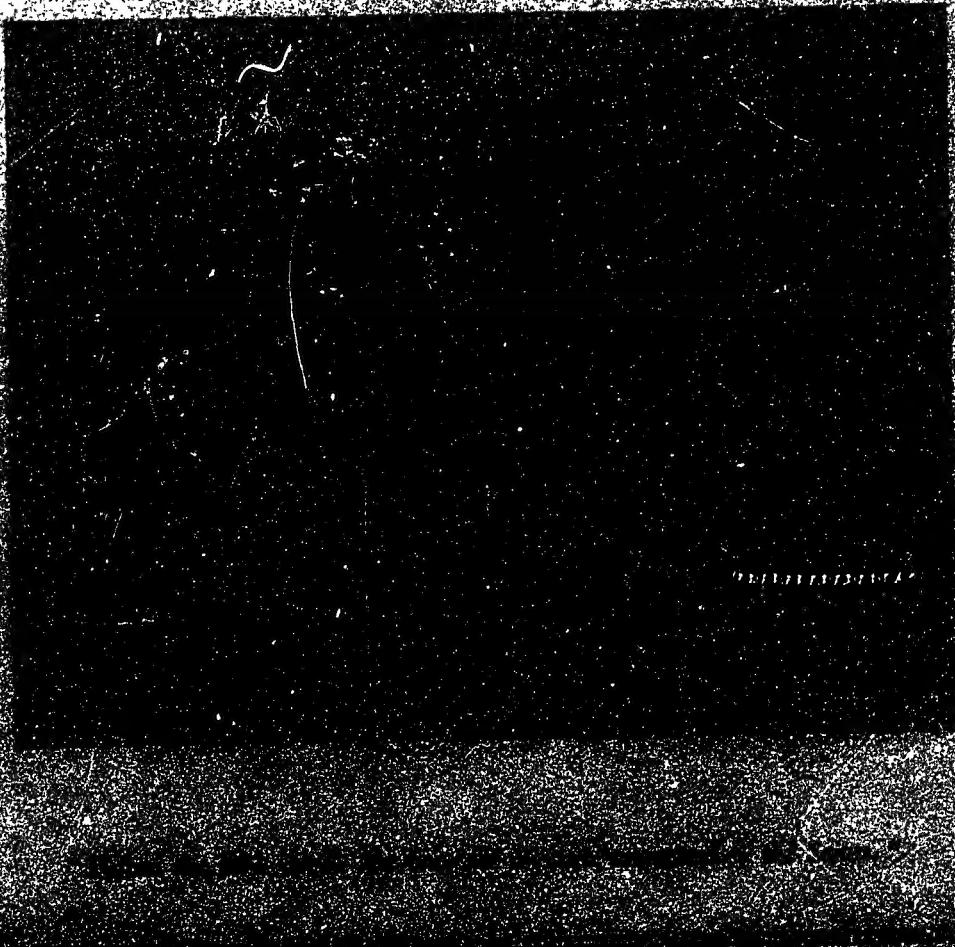
1891 - 1951

DIAMOND JUBILEE

History of the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN



To Annie M. Truesdell:

In this Diamond Jubilee Year of the First Baptist Church, Regina, Sask., we, the members and friends, assembled on this fourteenth day of November, 1951, desire to express to our sister-in-Christ, Miss Annie M. Truesdell, our deep appreciation for her long and devoted service in this portion of the Master's vineyard.

Throughout sixty years, from eighteen hundred and ninety-one until now, she has been active and zealous in the performance of those things which pertain to the Kingdom of God. She has loyally supported the work of this Church and for forty-three years filled the office of Church Treasurer with efficiency and distinction.

We are privileged to have her as our Honorary Life Treasurer and assure her of our deepest affection and highest respect.

On behalf of the First Baptist Church,

S. Robert Weaver,
Minister.

John E. Dove,
Church Clerk.

MESSAGE OF GREETING

Dear Friends:

This week we are celebrating our Diamond Jubilee----sixty years of Christian witness and service in Regina. What an occasion of thanksgiving that should be!

We should thank God for the word of the Gospel which He has given us in Jesus Christ. How wonderful to know that there is a Saviour from sin, a Companion for the way, and a Light in the Valley of Darkness! And that is the Gospel which has been proclaimed from this pulpit these sixty years; a strength for the present and a faith for the future.

We should thank God for those stalwart souls who have gone before us and the result of whose labours we enjoy. I am thinking of our Baptist forbears who established "the Church on the Frontier", of those whose vision and conviction and willingness to sacrifice caused this Church to be built in the heart of Regina, of those who have ministered here, and of those who have maintained its worship across the years.

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Halleluiah! Halleluiah!

We should thank God for the privilege which has been ours of labouring here and of enjoying "the communion of the saints." As the years pass by I become more and more conscious of two things; of the privilege of serving Christ and of the joy and satisfaction of Christian fellowship. And I am sure you must feel the same. Think of the happy times you have had here, think of the friends you have made in this place, think of the influence you have been privilege to exercise through this Church and thank God!

Indeed I would bid you look back through the vista of the years--sixty years---to those days of small beginnings. I would remind you of our growth, of the influence which this Church has had, of those who from her midst have entered the ministry and have gone to the ends of the earth. Sometimes such a backward look helps to correct our myopic vision--helps us to believe with new faith in the power of the Gospel, in the reality of Divine providence, and in the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness and love. Look back, back to the rock from which you were hewn, and then look up into God's face with new trust and fresh devotion.

It is good to take a quick look at the past but our faces must ever be toward the future. That is what Paul meant when he said: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press on, toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We must not rest on our laurels. There are new kingdoms to be conquered, new wrongs to be righted, new lives to be brought to Christ.

As we set ourselves to that task I can think of no symbol more fitting than the Diamond which combines the two qualities of radiant beauty and incomparable toughness. As a Church our life must be attractive, marked by the beauty of holiness and love and service. But if we are to stand against the force of evil there must also be the strength of conviction and devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a great past but a still more glorious future awaits us if we will seek to match the greatness of the opportunity by the consecration of our lives. Let each member and adherent accept his responsibility, assume his portion of the load and pledge his devotion anew at the feet of Christ, the Redeemer. Then the future will be "as bright as the promises of God."

Church Study,
November 11th, 1951.

Yours in His Service,
S. ROBERT WEAVER.

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church, Regina:

I share your joy in celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist Church, Regina. May she continue to be as a "City set upon an hill that cannot be hid."

G. HARMON JONES,
Pasadena, Calif., U.S.A.

To the Members of First Baptist Church, Regina:

As a former pastor of your church and a member also of the historical committee of our Convention, I was greatly pleased when I heard that you were planning to bring the history of your church up to date. That is what we, in our convention, are trying to do in the case of all our churches. We are seeking also to have a brief biographical sketch of every pastor. There are two principles I wish to commend to you and as you face the future keep them in mind. (1) The self propagating ability of the Church. This principle has found splendid expression in the history of the Regina Church. (2) The men and women of First Church have proved their ability to operate effectively and fruitfully the work and activities of the Church. If you keep these principles in mind and make them operative, the future will be as bright as the promises of God.

Fraternally,

S. J. FARMER,
Toronto, Ontario.

To the Members and Friends of the First Baptist Church, Regina,
Greetings:

It is both an honor and a pleasure to have even a long distance part in the ceremonies connected with the 60th Anniversary of your Church's history, and to share with you the joy and satisfaction that are yours on such an occasion.

A thrill comes to me even yet when I recall the happy years I spent as pastor of your church. The love, co-operation and loyal support I was given have always been a cherished memory. As I write, I can see the great Sunday Evening congregations that used to fill the whole sanctuary, gallery included, the scores of teen-age and other young people who were in the Sunday School, the fine music the choir always rendered, and the enthusiasm with which the whole church program went forward. Those were red-letter days in my ministry.

There were amusing incidents too. I have never forgotten the remark of my dear old friend, Deacon P.R. McDonald, the night the Church observed the fifth anniversary of my pastorate. Many flattering things had been said, when Deacon McDonald was called upon to add a word. His Scotch humor rose to a great height. He said, "I have agreed with all that has been said about our pastor." Then he added, "Indeed when he came to our Church, we were in such a condition that a very much poorer pastor would have done us, if we had known where to find him." The laughter that followed nearly broke up the party!

But I must not reminisce. That is a fatal sign of age! Great days are ahead for your church. "The Best is Yet to Be." We need a militant Christianity for this day in which we are living. Continue to keep aflame and aloft the torch of a vital, enthusiastic witness for Christ and God will own and richly bless your efforts.

With the Best of wishes, and warmest regards to the entire congregation, I am,

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR S. LEWIS
Everett, Wash.

My Dear Friends:

It is a very great pleasure to extend the congratulations of Mrs. Nobles and myself on the occasion of your Sixtieth Anniversary. I am happy in the knowledge that of those years, nine were given to me in which it was my high privilege to be your minister. Abiding friendships were formed which will never be forgotten, and it was a privilege to be associated with you. May I take this opportunity of speaking a word from both my wife and me concerning the lovely thing which you did for us one year ago, when we were visiting Regina. We shall not soon forget that grand evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, when old times were reviewed. It was a lovely gesture.

May the blessing of God which has rested upon you during the years that have gone, abide and enrich all of your experience in the things of God down across the future days.

Greetings from us all.

Very sincerely yours,

HARRY R. NOBLES,
Windsor, Ontario.

Warmest greetings to the members of the First Baptist Church of Regina on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary. May progress and faithful witnessing characterize the future as it has the past.

Yours in Christ,

A.B. VINCENT
Windsor, Ontario.

Dear Friends:

The memory of our eight years together will be for me forever green. I will be always grateful to God for the privilege of serving First Baptist Church, Regina for a season. In your Golden Jubilee I had the pleasure of rejoicing with you as a visible member of the family. In your Diamond Jubilee I am with you in spirit and give thanks to God for the sixty unbroken years of work and witness.

May God bless you and lead you on to greater victory in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

Yours in Him and His Service,

C. HOWARD BENTALL,
Walmer Road Baptist Church,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Friends of First Baptist Church, Regina:

It is a joy to be able to send a greeting on the celebration of sixty years of Christian witness and service. In one sense, sixty years is quite a long time. It means, for instance, that public worship has been held over six thousand times. It revives memories of years of triumph and years of struggle. It recalls the names of those who have labored with us and have gone on to be with the Father. We remember those who first believed as they heard the Gospel proclaimed in this place. We remember those who here gave their lives for missionary service and for the work of the Christian ministry.

Yes, memory is a joy and the memory of achievement reminds us that much of what we have, we have had given to us by the pioneer work of others. They labored and we entered into their labors.

My anniversary word to you is that while this may be, and should be, a time for blessed memories, let it not be that alone. The great apostle had a word of caution for those content either to glory in the triumphs of the past or feel defeated in its failures:

"One thing I do,
forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

May the second sixty be even better than the first sixty!

Sincerely,

G. GERALD HARROP,
Hamilton, Ontario.

PART I -- FIFTY YEARS

It is the first Sunday of September in the year 1941. The Church bells are calling the people to morning worship. Through the doors they come ---young and old, rich and poor, the sad and lonely, the happy and the gay---they are coming to rest, to pray, to "wait upon the Lord," to renew their strength and repeat their vows. Here the holy sacrament of life is broken, here the word of God is heard, here the soul is lifted up to the eternal hills, here the seen and the temporal are left behind, the unseen and the eternal are made real and near, here they come, they "kneel and all around seems to lower, they rise and all the distant and the near stand forth in sunny outline, brave and clear," they come weak, they leave full of power, they come dejected and weary, they leave uplifted and stronger. They have found this familiar shrine once again to be for them the house of God and the very gate of heaven.

This place and these people? The First Baptist Church in Regina and the worshippers who pass through her two stately pillars every Sabbath day. In her services of worship, through her Sunday School, through her young people's society and her many and varied organizations, hundreds of people today are being touched and moulded by her influence, and through her they are recipients of the unsearchable riches of divine grace, "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." It is a ministry of which we are proud and in which we rejoice.

BEFORE THE BEGINNING

But, behind this picture of her privileged and prominent ministry in 1941 lies a saga of heroic adventure and sacrificial service dating as far back as 1869. In that year the Baptist Home Mission Board of Ontario met in Aylmer, Ont. and Dr. Fyfe, principal of the Woodstock Baptist Academy moved that the Board send two men to visit the Red River Settlement and make a report with a view to sending a man to preach the gospel to that great prairie land. The two men selected were the Rev. Thomas Baldwin and Dr. Davidson who bravely set out via Chicago to St. Cloud, Minnesota, making the trip by train in three days, and then ten days by mule to Forty Garry, --the site of the future home of Winnipeg with only twenty-two houses and one brick store. They examined the country as far east as the Lake of the Woods, as far west as Portage la Prairie, and as far north as Lake Manitoba. They came back with such a glowing report of the soil, the climate and the prospects that enough money was raised to send the Rev. Alexander McDonald as the first resident Baptist Missionary to the new province of Manitoba.

THE BEGINNING

A church was built the next year, chiefly through the benevolence and the activity of W. R. Dick of Winnipeg. Then on February 7, 1875 it was organized,--the first Baptist Church to be organized in the great West, and the first convert was A. E. St. Delmas who later became a missionary. By 1879 there were four churches with 162 members and in 1885 a church was organized in Brandon where in the same year a convention of delegates from thirteen Baptist churches met reporting a total of 650 members.

Five years later the name of Regina appears for the first time on the pages of Baptist history. It was then, in 1890, that the pastor of the Brandon Church, the Rev. Wellington Jenkins, of Cody, N.B., a graduate of Acadia University and a noted scholar of the Greek Testament, visited Regina in his capacity as Superintendent of Home Missions. Dr. Jenkins found several Baptists anxious for a church of their own faith and practice. He preached in the Town Hall to a fair audience, called on several and reported to the Home Mission Board at Winnipeg that there was need for a mission in Regina, where a church could be organized in the near future.

The Board acting on his recommendation, sent to Saint John, N.B., for the Rev. J. Harry King. He came to Regina on July 11th, 1891 and held his first public service on the following Sabbath in the old Town Hall. He continued his preaching regularly and in two months organized a church of baptized believers, since known as the "First Baptist Church, Regina." The organization meeting was held on Sunday, September 6th, 1891 with fifteen members, none of whom, however, now live in Regina. The names of those fifteen members were as follows:

Rev. J.H. King, B.A.
Rev. Thomas Sutton, from England
Mr. John Fisher, from Paisley, Ontario.
Mr. John Hamilton, from Hamilton, Ontario.
Mr. John McDougall from Paisley, Ontario.
Mrs. John McDougall
Miss Bella McDougall
Miss Sarah McDougall
Mr. Donald McDougall
Miss Mary McFadyen, from Ontario
Mr. James McLachlan from Ontario
Miss Barbara McPhail, from Toronto
Mr. T.E. Nevison, from England
Mrs. T.E. Nevison, from England
Mrs. M.E. Truesdell, from South Durham, Quebec.

At this organization meeting, the "Church Covenant" and the "Declaration of Faith" were read. Brothers McLachlan and Fisher were elected Deacons. Archibald McDougall was elected Church Clerk. Five were elected Trustees and three as a Building Committee.

Five weeks later in Wascana Creek seven converts followed their Lord in baptism, one of whom Miss Annie M. Truesdell, our present highly esteemed Treasurer, a position which she has held continuously for the past 33 years. Soon after the Building Committee bought a site for the Church at a cost of \$375.00 situated on Cornwall street between 11th and 12th Avenue where a house of Worship was built and dedicated two months later. The "beginnings ended when in the following January, 1892, a Sunday School was organized with A. E. Waldon as the Superintendent. At the conclusion of this first historic year the membership of the church numbered 47 and the number baptized during the year was 16.

The second Pastor of the church was Rev. F.W. Auvache, an Englishman of French Huguenot descent, who came to us from Pilot Mound, Man. Mr. and Mrs. Auvache had first chosen India as their field of service, but after a brief stay in India they were obliged to return to England owing to the serious illness of Mr. Auvache. To his great disappointment Mr. Auvache never sufficiently recovered to resume his work in India and finally he brought his family to Canada.

In addition to his faithful labours as Pastor of the Church, Mr. Auvache, like Mr. King did valuable service in the community around Regina, often driving more than fifty miles into the country searching for isolated Baptists, holding meetings and bringing good cheer, comforts and medicines, out of his own scanty store, to sick and needy settlers.

The first decade witnessed the organization of a Young People's Union, four years of drought and difficulty between 1893 and '97 when few settlers ventured out into the West. But nevertheless 35 were received into membership, an organ secured, a Sunday School Library begun, and mission work started in the surrounding country. The decade concluded in 1901, with the organization of a group which cannot be surpassed in its record of devoted service and without which the church would have had a far less commendable story to relate. This organization was to be known for many years to come as the Ladies' Aid.

In October of this year representatives of 9 churches in Saskatchewan and Alberta were called to examine the student pastor of the Church A.T. Robinson, and "set him apart for the gospel ministry." Rev. A. P. McDairmid, Principal of Brandon College, preached the Ordination sermon, and Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, Superintendent of Home Missions, offered the prayer at "the laying on of hands."

The name of one member during this period is worthy of special mention. In 1897 and again in 1902 and '03 the church was without a pastor for several months, but regularly Sunday School and prayer meetings were held, and for this much of the credit was due to the efforts of the late Mrs. G. H. V. Bulyea, whose husband was a member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories and who afterwards became the first Lieutenant-Governor of the newly formed Province of Alberta. Mrs. Bulyea was the able teacher of a large adult Bible class and at her suggestion the members of the Church continued to contribute regularly by envelope until all past debts were cleared away and the church was again in a position to call a pastor. In this way the membership was held together and the work of the past years was conserved.

In May, 1903, Rev. H.G. Mellick, of St. John, N.B., became the pastor of the Church, and a period of activity and progress began. In the first year of his ministry the Church became self-supporting, and the congregation increased to such an extent that the building could not accommodate the people who came to the services. Consequently, in 1906, an extension of 24 feet was built on to the Church at a cost of \$900.00. But it soon appeared that even this addition would not meet the growing need and that a larger house of worship would have to be built. On the 14th of February, 1906, a committee, consisting of Pastor Mellick, James McLachlan, G. W. Wagner and George Milne, was appointed for the purpose of securing a site for the new Church. Five lots on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Lorne Street, the site of the present church, were offered by the owners, Whitmore Bros. at a special price of \$4,000.00 on the one stipulation that the site be used for church purposes. On the recommendation of the committee this offer was accepted immediately. In the meantime to accomodate the growing congregations the former Methodist church, standing on the south-west corner of Hamilton Street and 12th Avenue was rented at \$65.00 per month.

On May 18th, 1907, Rev. H. G. Mellick resigned, and as a token of appreciation and esteem a purse of \$250.00 was presented to Mr. and Mrs.

Mellick. During his pastorate of 4 years a new milestone of progress had been reached and the Mellick Manse was a haven of rest to many a weary Baptist settler coming out into Western Canada.

In December, Rev. Harmon Jones became the pastor of the Church. In June, 1908, individual communion cups were secured, another piano was purchased and a soloist, A. E. Greenlaw, a Negro from Woodstock, Ont., was engaged at \$1,000 per year. Two years later, in 1910, on February 6th, Rev. Harmon Jones resigned and a call was sent to Rev. S. J. Farmer of Brantford Ontario, and Rev. H. C. Speller served as interim pastor during April. Pastor Farmer commenced his pastorate on May 15th, 1910, and then followed the efforts that resulted in the erection of the present edifice.

The Cornwall street property was placed on the market and sold for \$38,000. In October a Building Committee of nine members was elected to devise ways and means of constructing a suitable church building. The names of this committee were J.L. McKillop, T.A. Smeed, G.F. Wilson, P.R. McDonald, H.A. Couse, J.H.D. Stevens, O.S. Knisely, George Hilton, and George Millar. The first, is still with us and is one of our honored life-deacons. On January 18th, 1911, the building committee recommended the adoption of "plans" for a structure similar to the Sioux Falls Baptist Church in South Dakota with various modifications. The committee also recommended that \$35,000.00 be borrowed and a mortgage given with interest at not more than 7% and, further, that tenders be advertised for and contracts entered into without delay. The church voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the committee. The committee reported, March 29th, that the contract had been let to Smith Brothers and Wilson on their tender of \$49,000.00 which did not include the plumbing, the steam-heating plant or the furniture.

LAYING OF CORNER STONE

The first sod was turned on Monday, April 10th, 1911. The foundation work was commenced on May 3rd. The corner stone was laid by Dr. John Clifford, of England, on July 10th. He preached in the City Hall the day before to a record making audience when his text was: "Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain and he shall bring forth a headstone with shouting, saying, Grace, grace unto it."

At the annual meeting in January, 1912, the clerk's report showed a net gain of 51 members for the year 1911. The treasurer reported that \$7,400.00 had been received on current account. (The number using the envelope system was 136). The building committee reported that \$51,832.18 had been received. Assets totalled \$162,700.00 and liabilities, \$ 55,000.00. On April 14th, of the same year, the new pipe organ was heard for the first time and twenty persons were given the right hand of fellowship.

THE CYCLONE

June 30th, 1912, was a very historic but tragic date. It was a very hot Sunday and about 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon a black cloud appeared in the south. At ten minutes to five a terrific cyclone swept through the city. Its path was narrow, mainly between Smith and Lorne Streets. In this path it destroyed the Y.M.C.A., the Telephone Exchange, and nearly one hundred other buildings, killing over forty persons. Fortunately, at the time the churches were empty. The cyclone completely demolished the

Metropolitan Church. It seriously damaged Knox Presbyterian Church. It lifted the dome of our church and in its mad fury threw it one block away, leaving it to rest on the Church of England property. The rain that followed upon the heels of the cyclone drove through the open roof and the total damage to the Church reached the figure of \$12,000.00

The following Sunday, Baptists met in the Princess Theatre for regular worship.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

During August forty-four letters were granted members to form the Central Baptist Church in the city, but the net gain in membership for 1912 was 59. In the following year the First Church decided to help a mission in the East end of the city for which purpose the late Mr. Frank Simpkins donated three lots. In the same year, Brother Goby left as a missionary under "The China Inland Mission."

In 1913 evangelistic services were conducted for ten days by Dr. W. B. Riley, of First Baptist Church in Minneapolis, during which fifty persons made public profession of their faith in Christ and a net gain of 125 members was reported for the year.

TO THE AID OF BRITAIN

On the fourth of August, 1914, Britain entered the Great War to fulfill her treaty obligations to Belgium and France, and Canada with 500,000 men went to her aid. Of this number 103 enlisted from this congregation. Eleven of them were killed in action and their names are inscribed upon an honor roll which hangs in the parlors of the church. Again in September, 1939 Canada went to the side of her Motherland, and 45 men from the church and congregation enlisted in the several branches of His Majesty's Forces.

On May 28th, 1916, after nearly six years as pastor, Rev. S.J. Farmer tendered his resignation which became effective on June 10th.

In view of the fact that both Central and the First Baptist Churches were now each without a pastor, it was mutually agreed that the members of Central Church unite with First Church, and the names of 94 members of Central Church were transferred to the membership of First Church. Dr. Howard P. Whidden, Principal of Brandon College, preached on December 3rd and presided at a great united Communion service, expressing his confidence in the future of the coming pastor.

This new pastor was to be Rev. A. S. Lewis, of Windsor, N.S. He commenced his ministry on February 1st, 1917. The church immediately began to make rapid progress. At the close of four weeks 16 were added to the membership by baptism. The use of the Sankey Hymn Book was discontinued in favor of the Baptist Hymnal, and in May the Communion registration card was adopted. The number of envelope contributors increased by 45 in one month, bringing the total to 200. In the same year, the church decided to purchase an automobile for the minister. In the following year \$5,000.00 was paid on the "Cyclone Loan" received from the City in 1912

November 1921, marked another phase of missionary extension. The Church Extension Committee was authorized to construct a 40 ft. by 20 ft. building on the north-west corner of Cameron Street and Seventh Avenue at a cost of \$2,100.00. This structure was to be known in the future as the Cameron Memorial Church, in honor of one of our noble missionaries, and a member of First Baptist Church, Dr. Marjorie Cameron, who died "in action" serving under the flag of her "King of Kings" in India in 1921. Mrs. C. F. Rand was appointed Sunday School Superintendent and William Skelton appointed Secretary.

Deep regret was felt at the departure of Rev. A.S. Lewis who left, following a great pastorate of five years and three months, to become the minister of Fairview Baptist Church in Vancouver.

On Sunday, August 7, 1923, Rev. Harry R. Nobles, B.D., commenced his pastorate of nine years. The strength of the church at this milestone of her history can be gathered from the annual report presented in January of that year. The total membership was 687, of which 187 were non-resident. The Sunday School enrolment had reached the number of 397 scholars and 25 teachers. 22 scholars had been baptized during the year. The B.Y.P.U. numbered 60, the Ladies' Aid 75 and the Mission Circle 79.

On February 28th, 1923, forty-one members resident in the north-western part of the city were granted letters to the new Cameron Memorial Church. In spite of this "exodus", the net gain during the year was 19.

In June, 1931, Rev. H.R. Nobles left. The membership at this time was 800, even though two Baptist Churches had been organized in the city, many members for which had been drawn from the First Church.

In October, Rev. A. B. Vincent, of Walkerville, Ontario, came to the Church as interim pastor and remained until September, 1932, during which period twelve were baptized.

Then Rev. H. H. Upton of Watertown, Massachusetts, became the regular pastor of the church, for a period concluding in July 1, 1935. These were exceedingly hard years in view of the fact that Regina was in the very trough of the depression area. Nevertheless, many were added to the Church.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Upton from the pastorate, we feel that, as a Church, we were particularly fortunate in securing the services of a Christian gentleman of a rich and wide experience over a period of more than fifty years in the ministry, in the person of Rev. Bowley Green, B.A., B.D., in which choice we are confident we were divinely led. Under God, and the leadership of Dr. Green, the Church life was deepened, strengthened and enriched in the things of the Spirit, preparing the way as it did, for the coming of his immediate successor, Rev. F.W. Pattison, and that of the present pastor, Rev. C. Howard Bentall. We desire to record here, also, the invaluable assistance rendered by his daughter, Miss Green, whose constant and loyal devotion was ever a source of inspiration and help to her father and without which, according to the Doctor's own admission, the notable success which attended his ministry would not, in the same degree, have been possible.

The late Rev. F. W. Pattison was interim pastor for a brief period of six months from January to June of 1938 and under his gracious leadership the church continued to march forward.

REV. C. HOWARD BENTALL

Rev. C. Howard Bentall, came in July, 1938. He came as a young man from Selkirk, Ontario, his first pastorate. During the three years of his ministry, which brings to a close our first half century of service, the Church went forward to a marked degree. 94 were baptized upon profession of faith in Christ and 130 added to the membership of the church. At the time of the Golden Jubilee, the membership stood at 827, 524 of whom were resident and 303 non-resident. The church building was re-decorated, new carpets and drapes secured, the new Baptist Hymnary purchased, and the mortgage greatly reduced.

EPILOGUE

And so ended the record of our first fifty years.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home;

Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

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1914-1918

1939-1945

THOSE WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

Beatson, George,	Hamilton, W.,
Brown, R. A.,	Hardy, Ronald,
Fowler, Harry	Jones, H.,
Le Lue, Horace,	McLeod, W.,
Lennox, George	Taylor, W.,
McDonald, Harold,	Topping, W.F.
McGee, German A.,	
Milne, William,	
Savin, Phillip,	
Waterhouse, E.W.,	
Yates, Ernest,	
Stinchcombe, Henry.	



"For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blest.
Hallelujah!"



BOARD OF DEACONS AND DEACONESSES, 1951

BACK ROW: (From left to right)—W. Wolfe, J. E. Dove, R. W. Gourdie, P. Sundeen, Miss N. Bradley, Miss E. McMillian, A. A. Wilson, S. Cookson, E. T. Stinson, W. V. Picket (Church historian).

FRONT ROW: T. C. Chard, Mrs. C. M. McGee, Mrs. D. Robbie, G. D. Raymond, Rev. S. Robert Weaver, Miss

R. Bradley, Miss A. M. Truesdell, E. J. Graham, J. L. McKillop.

PICTURES OF MINISTERS

First Fifty Years



Rev. A. S. Lewis, B.A., B.D., D.D.



Rev. Harry R. Nobles, B.A., B.D.



Rev. A. E. Vincent, B.A., B.Th.



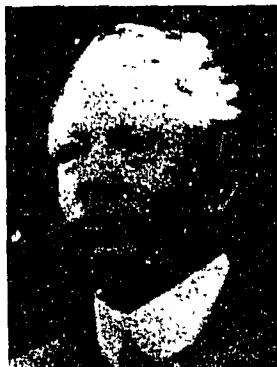
Rev. Bowley Green, B.A., D.D.



Rev. F. W. Pattison, M.A.
Died April 25, 1940

PICTURES OF MINISTERS

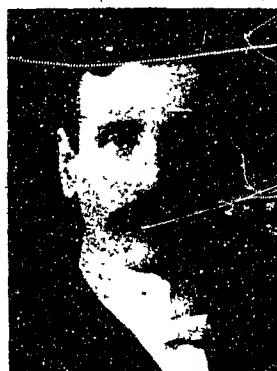
First Fifty Years



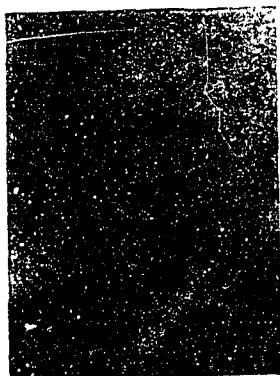
Rev. J. Harry King



Rev. F. W. Auvache, B.A.



Rev. H. G. Mellick, B.A.



Rev. Harmon Jones, B.A.



Rev. S. J. Farmer, B.A., D.D.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1941 to 1951



Rev. G. Gerald Harrop, Ph.D., B.D.



Rev. S. Robert Weaver, B.A., B.D.



Rev. C. Howard Bentall, B.A., B.D.



Miss Annie M. Truesdell, B.A.
Treasurer for 43 years



Miss Ruth I. Bradley, B.A.
Director of Christian Education

PART II

And now, another milestone has come in the history of our church, which this year celebrates its "Diamond Jubilee". Sixty years is a long time in the life of an organization. Much has happened since that first Sunday service in the town hall in 1891, to this year 1951. Years have come and gone. Many who worshipped here have been called to higher service, but always their vision and faith have spurred those who carried on to hold high the torch of righteousness, and to make this church a bulwark against the inroads of evil in our city.

In the summer of 1941, the church was privileged to entertain the Baptist Union of Western Canada, at which time Rev. T.B. McDormand, Toronto, then Editor of our Baptist Publications, conducted the daily devotional periods, and presented the new venture of printing our own Canadian Sunday School supplies. Dr. W. C. Smalley, Edmonton, outlined the work throughout the West, and a play, arranged by Mrs. Muriel Clements, was presented by the B.Y.P.U. of our church.

Due to the increased attendance at the evening services, fifty folding chairs were purchased for the use of the Fireside gatherings. Assisting at the services during the year were the late Rev. S. F. Steeves, Moose Jaw; Rev. W. Potoroka, of Droxford; Rev. H. K. Grimmer, Military Chaplain of M.D. #12, and Rev. Norman Todd, Winnipeg, who supplied during the summer holiday period.

In the spring of 1944, Rev. Keith Daniel, Director of Church School and Young People's Work for the Baptist Union, conducted the first of several "Teacher Training Courses." Miss Mary Epp visited our church and told of her work in Bolivia.

After thirty years of excellent service as caretaker, Mr. Ben Bradley tendered his resignation, which was regretfully accepted.

Rev. C. H. Bentall dedicated a new pulpit Bible, the gift of a member of the congregation, and Deaconess McGee loaned her piano to the Church for use in the Sunday School services.

In the fall we were visited by Rev. J.A. McRae, Edmonton, Director of Home Missions and Evangelism for the Baptist Union, who conducted an Evangelistic Campaign for three nights, resulting in sixteen joining the Church. The Week of Prayer was conducted by Rev. Crossley Hunter, Winnipeg; the late Dr. H.H. Bingham, Toronto, and Rev. Norman Todd, Winnipeg, conducted the services during the holiday season.

On January 23rd, 1944 our church was honored when Rev. C. H. Bentall and the choir were heard across Canada on "The C.B.C. Church of the Air" for the first time. The Young Worshippers League was organized for students up to fifteen years attending Church and Sunday School eighteen out of twenty Sundays from February to June 30th, and pins were presented those attaining full attendance.

Rev. Percy Buck, Bolivia; Miss Clara Johnson, India; and Dr. H.L. McNeill, of McMaster University, visited the church at different times. A ten weeks' course in the Bible was given by Rev. C.H. Bentall for those wishing to teach in the Sunday School. Special evangelistic meetings, conducted by Rev. Bob Munro, Scottish Evangelist, resulted in several joining the church.

The highlight of 1944, an event that every member had looked forward to for years, was made possible when the results of the Birthday Offering became known. This was "The Burning of the Mortgage" which took place on November 12th, 1944. The original mortgage which was necessitated by the cyclone was taken out in 1911 for \$35,000. Up to the year 1944 the church paid in addition to the principal, the sum of \$41,574.16 in interest. Taking part in the ceremony were the pastor, Rev. C.H. Bentall; Miss Annie Truesdell, Church Treasurer; J.L. McKillop; the late George F. Wilson, Life Deacons; and H. Cartwright, Church Trustee.

In 1945 eighty students received "pins" for attendance at the "Young Worshippers League." Missionary rallies were held with Rev. Eric Quirk of India, Miss Dorothy Francklin; and Rev. Norman Dabbs of Bolivia. Rev. Aubrey Small, Montreal, Principal of Grande Ligne; Dr. G.C. Warren, Dean of Theology of Acadia University and President of the Baptist Federation of Canada, visited us during the summer. Other speakers during the year included Rev. W.C. Smalley, Edmonton, Gen. Sec'y. of the Baptist Union; Miss Edna Grant, Canadian Field Sec'y. for the W.C.T.U.; Miss Jane Bone, National Sec'y. of the Girls' Work Board; and Hon. T. C. Douglas, Premier of Saskatchewan.

The year 1946 saw missionary rallies with Rev. and Mrs. E.J. Church, and Miss Lucy Cooper, all from India. On June 5th, in the First Baptist Church, Vancouver, Rev. C.H. Bentall, and Miss Shirley May, also a member of this Church, were married. Pulpit supplies were Rev. Norman Dabbs, Bolivia, Rev. B. S. Summers of the Bible Society; Rev. Norman Todd, Rev. A.G. Elliott, and Rev. R. F. Watts.

Following a call to Walmer Road Baptist Church, Toronto, Rev. C.H. Bentall tendered his resignation on April 28th, 1946, to take effect October 20th. Rev. G. Gerald Harrop, of Toronto, accepted a call to the Church, beginning his ministry October 27th, 1946.

Due to the housing shortage, it was found necessary to buy a house for the pastor, and on December 16th the residence at 2320 Elphinstone St. was purchased from V.E. Gough, and the congregation welcomed Mrs. G. Harrop, Jill and Beverley in time for Christmas.

Additional speakers during the year were Edith Webster, Jane Hood, Ruth Bradley and Lyle Kennedy, returning to McMaster University; Rev. A.J. Langley, Central Baptist Church, St. John, N.B.; Rev. H. Westcott, Winnipeg, for the anniversary service; and Rev. Ian Hind, Cameron Memorial Baptist Church for the Watch Night Service.

In 1947 seven delegates went from the church to the "First Assembly of the Baptist Federation of Canada," held at Wolfville, N.S., August 23rd to 26th.

"The Minutes" of the church business meeting of September 24th, 1947, included the sale of the Lot on the east side of the church to the American Government, for an office and residence for the American Consul, for \$250.00 per foot, a total of \$10,000.

Rev. and Mrs. Archie Gordon, on furlough from India, with Rev. G.G. Harrop, conducted a Bible study course at Echo Lake B.Y.P.U. camp. Hon. T.C. Douglas was guest speaker at the Watch Night Service.

Due to the untiring efforts of Rev. G.G. Harrop and Rev. Ian Hind,

of Cameron Memorial Church, who took alternate services after their own service, the new mission in North Annex was established, and received the name of Trinity Baptist Mission, with Miss Ruth Bradley, B.A., a graduate of the Women's Leadership Training Course at McMaster University, in charge.

Over \$350. was sent to the Baptist Union, to help bring Baptist Displaced persons from camps in Europe to Canada.

April 10th of this year saw the opening of the Baptist Broadcast. The Church was privileged to entertain the Council of the Baptist Federation of Canada. The Council executive included: Dr. M.F. McCutcheon, Montreal; Dr. S.S. Poole and Dr. W. C. Machum, of St. John, N.B.; Mrs. J.R. McDonald, Winnipeg; and Rev. G. G. Harrop, Regina. The Federation Public Service was conducted by Dr. R.S. Longley of Acadia University on Wednesday, October 26th. Federation Sunday, October 30th, we were honored to have Dr. S. J. Farmer as guest speaker.

Miss Jane Hood, of Grenfell, Sask., our missionary elect for Bolivia, was honored by a shower of gifts. And October 30th was a great day in the life of our Church when Jane Hood was commissioned with Dr. H.S. Hillyer, Associate-General Secretary, preaching the commissioning sermon. At that time, Dr. Hillyer told us more concerning the tragic stoning of Rev. Norman Dabbs, missionary to Bolivia.

Rev. E. J. Bailey, of Edmonton First Baptist Church, was guest-speaker for our anniversary service. Rev. Arthur Matheson, India; and Rev. Rudolph Ekstein, Latvia, brought messages of the work in other lands.

Seeing the need of a Baptist Camp for our Young People, the Baptists of Southern Saskatchewan raised \$1200. A bond was given for each contribution of \$5.00 and over, in the Campsite Development Fund. The site in Lake Katepwa, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, for Camp Maranatha, was prepared and an airport building secured. Much of the credit of this enterprize goes to Mr. H. E. Cartwright.

Rev. Dave Phillips, missionary elect to Bolivia, was a visitor.

A sum of money was received for the work of the church from the estate of the late Mrs. Cornelia Cleveland Smith. One thousand dollars was sent to the Baptist Union for our work in India, which had suffered greatly from a cyclone.

The church auditorium and several of the other rooms were re-decorated.

Due to the Winnipeg Flood, Broadway First Baptist Church was unable to entertain the Baptist Union, scheduled to meet there, so Regina First Baptist Church became hosts to the Union, July 6th to July 10th. Many outstanding speakers were heard, among them being Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown and his wife, from England, and Dr. Parker from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Through the courtesy of Premier Douglas, the convention delegates were entertained in the Legislative Library to tea served by the Ilo Bennett Mission Circle.

Mr. Harrop presented his resignation to the Church on May 14th, 1950 to accept an appointment to the staff of McMaster University to take effect on August 15th. In the month of June, Mr. Harrop received the degree, Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago, and thus became the first minister of this Church to earn his doctorate by academic study.

An unanimous call was extended to Rev. S. Robert Weaver of Welland, Ontario, who began his ministry with us October 15th, 1950.

At the Annual Meeting in January, 1951, Miss Annie Truesdell resigned as Church Treasurer. For over forty-three years she gave faithful service to the church, and was appointed Honorary Treasurer by the unanimous vote of the members. She was succeeded by Mr. Harry Wilson.

The year 1951 saw the Baptist Broadcast re-opened, the pastor speaking each Sunday Evening. Two of our young people, Elmer Shaw and his sister, Verna, graduated from the "Bible Leadership Training School", Calgary. Training for the Baptist Ministry and Christian service at present are Phyllis Roberts, Verna Shaw, Lyle Kennedy, Norman Sundwall and Elmer Shaw.

The Sunday School has always been a vital part of the Church work from the time when Mr. Waldron became the first Superintendent to the present Superintendent, Robert Usher. The longest period of service was given by Mr. T. C. Chard, who as Secretary, then Assistant Superintendent, and finally, Superintendent, held this office for 29 years.

This history would not be complete without mention of the women's organizations of the church, who over the years have never failed to carry more than their share of the work of our church.

So ends our "Sixty years of History", and we can say with the late Jan Christian Smuts, of South Africa, "We have come to this country with a tradition and a destiny. We believe in the Christian principles handed down by our forefathers. What we are fighting for, are spiritual things!"

THE BAPTISTRY

The church has a beautiful baptistry, which is often in use. The scene, painted by Mr. Maude Moore and Mr. W. H. Edinburg, is typical of a sunset in the Qu'Appelle Valley, and the baptisms appear to be taking place in a river.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Our thanks are due to our Church Historian, Mr. Weldon U. Pickel for compiling the material which has gone into this historical sketch. The first section of the book is virtually the same as that used ten years ago on the occasion of our Golden Jubilee but the second part has been gleaned from Church minutes, calendars, and newspaper clippings. In performing this "labour of love", Mr. Pickel has placed us as a Church body greatly in his debt.

Our thanks are also due to Miss Ruth Bradley, our Church Secretary and Director of Christian Education for setting up and mimeographing the pages of this volume.

THE PULPIT THROUGH SIXTY YEARS

REV. J. H. KING, M.A., served July 11th, 1891 to July 1893.

REV. F. W. AUVAUCHE, B.A., served September, 1893 to 1896.

STU. A. T. ROBINSON, Lic., served March, 1897 to July, 1897

(Four months with no pastor)

STU. J. F. FRASER, Lic., served Nov., 1897 to March, 1899.

STU. J. G. DIXON, Lic., served summer of 1899.

STU. J. H. BOWERING, Lic., served Nov., 1899 to Dec. 1900

STU. A. T. ROBINSON, Lic., served Dec., 1900 to Dec., 1901

(Sixteen months without a pastor)

REV. H. G. WELLICK, B.A., served May, 1903 to May, 1907

REV. G. H. JONES, B.A., served Nov. 1907 to March 1910.

REV. S. J. FARMER, B.A., D.D., served May, 1910 to June, 1916.

(Pulpit supply seven months)

REV. A. S. LEWIS, B.A., B.D., D.D., served Feb. 1, 1917 to 1922

REV. H. R. NOBLES, B.A., B.D., served Aug. 11, 1922 to July, 1931.

REV. A. B. VINCENT, B.A., served Oct. 1931 to Sept., 1932.

REV. H. H. UPTON, B.A., B.D., served Sept., 1932 to July, 1935.

REV. BOWLEY GREEN, B.A., D.D., served Dec., 1935 to Dec., 1937.

REV. F. W. PATTISON, M.A., B.D., served Jan., 1938 to June, 1938

REV. C. HOWARD BENTALL, B.A., B.D., served July, 1938 to Oct. 20, 1946.

REV. G. GERALD HARROP, B.A., B.D., Ph.D., served Oct. 27, 1946 to Aug. 27, 1950

REV. S. ROBERT WEAVER, B.A., B.D., served October 15, 1950 to date.